

EMORY HERALD TRIBUNE

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The Play's the Thing...

by Theodore Brodek

DRAMATIS PERSONAE: Mr. C. Ingersall Adams II and Robert Arnold Turner

PLACE AND TIME: Campus of an unidentified American University, Fall 1967

(Behind Closed Doors)

C.I.A.: Hi...Bob, isn't it?

R.A.T.: Yeh. Pleased to meet you, sir.

C.I.A.: Just call me C. (just C.) the Second...

R.A.T.: Okay.

C.I.A.: It's good you're punctual. After our telephone conversation, you are well-aware of how important a matter we have to consider. Let me see if I got everything straight. You (voice begins to tremble. Right hand makes vague gesture of a closed fist raised in salutation) patriotically decided to organize a new student movement on this fine campus, which seems suddenly beset by sinister alien elements, to support The American Way. By the way, how many members did you say you could count on...

R.A.T.: Well...you see, we're sort of new to this business, but we do have a strong nucleus of three--myself and my two roommates--and then maybe this fraternity--they're great footballers...

C.I.A.: Of course. Got you. Clearly you're the kind of real American grass-roots we can always rely on even in a pinch. Numbers aren't important. To get to the point, now. What we want is to assure that the democratic process of opinion development is correctly guided through intelligent debate whereby the student body can be organized into solid rank-and-file formations--not on the South Vietnamese model, of course. The leaders must serve as examples to the intellectual deviates, who usually reflect mother-fixations or castration fears and all that...

R.A.T.: (Nods in bored manner.) Uhmhhh.

C.I.A.: Well, obviously you know all that and I don't want to insult your intelligence...(nervously missing ashtray with his cigarette.) In short, we think that you and your people would be a good investment for the American tax-payer's dollar which he has assigned generously for our discretionary use and...

R.A.T.: Yeh, sure, that's it. We sure could use some scratch, in order, as you say, that we get a, uhh, fair hearing you know. Anyway those other guys probably get money from China or somewhere. How else could they run a carnival with free eats. Got three hot dogs myself. Just look at 'em--those scraggly beards and unwashed clothes. Hell, we oughta be able to do better than them. Jeez, their parents can't even afford to pay for their education, most of 'em, so they gotta scrounge up scholarships. Why, they even get federal money and if that isn't...

C.I.A.: Okay, take it easy. We're working on it, but mistakes...

R.A.T.: Yeh, forget it. Besides, it's hard for us to raise enough funds just through contributions--after all, we pay fraternity dues, maintain a Mustang and usually (snicker) a filly or two...

C.I.A.: Sure, I know how it is. By the way now, you being the leader and all, why we'd like to invite you up to the capitol for a conference of like-thinking individuals on the subject of the week-end affair with all expenses and other, ahh, amenities...What would you like?

R.A.T.: Man, I like little blonds...

high: "Whatdawe folks know gainst the word o' the experts. Them people in Washington's got our best interests at heart (stage directions: violin senario begins)" Happily the Dec. issue of Esquire mag. comes to the rescue in the article "Big Brass Lambs".

Says General David M. Shoup (Kennedy's favorite Marine): "I believe that if we had and would keep our dirty, bloody, dollar-crooked fingers out of the business of these nations so full of depressed, exploited people, they will arrive at a solution of their own." Shoup also believes the danger of internatl. communism has been vastly oversold to Americans as a threat to capitalism.

Says Rear Admiral Arnold E. Trus: "I see no strategic or other reason for maintaining a base in Vietnam....Our anti-Communits adventures bring us no return...." Says Brigadier General Hugh B. Hester: "I agree with U Thant that this is a war of national independance not a case of Communist aggression. I think we ought to get out the same way we got in -- unilaterally."

The list of authorities and experts against our Vietnam policy goes on, and on, and on, and on, and on, and on....just like the war.

*Attachment E*